

# EXHIBIT C

# manatt

**Esra A. Hudson**  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP  
2049 Century Park East, Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
Direct Dial: (310) 312-4381  
ehudson@manatt.com

# WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER<sub>LLP</sub>

**Michael J. Gottlieb**  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher, LLP  
1875 K Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Direct Dial: (202) 744-0858  
mgottlieb@willkie.com

April 23, 2025

## VIA EMAIL

Bryan Freedman  
Liner Freedman Taitelman + Cooley LLP  
1801 Century Park West, 5th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Mitchell Schuster  
Meister Seelig & Fein PLLC  
125 Park Avenue, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

**Re: *Lively v. Wayfarer Studios LLC, et al., No. 1:24-cv-10049-LJL; Wayfarer Studios LLC, et al. v. Lively, et al., No. 1:25-cv-00449-LJL***

Dear Mr. Freedman and Mr. Schuster:

On behalf of our client Blake Lively, we write to address the frivolous claims asserted by Plaintiff Steve Sarowitz against Ms. Lively, which violate Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Rule 11”). In accordance with Rule 11, enclosed please find a copy of Ms. Lively’s proposed motion, which we intend to file as to you, your law firms, and Sarowitz, if Sarowitz does not withdraw the following claims: (1) Civil Extortion (ECF No. 50 (the “FAC”) ¶¶ 316-23 (“Extortion Claim”)); (2) Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations (*id.* ¶¶ 347-55); (3) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (*id.* ¶¶ 356-65); (4) Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (*id.* ¶¶ 366-74) (together with (2) and (3), the “Interference Claims”); (5) Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing (*id.* ¶¶ 340-46 (“Implied Covenant Claim”)); (6) Defamation (*id.* ¶¶ 324-31 (“Defamation Claim”)); and (7) False Light Invasion of Privacy (*id.* ¶¶ 332–39 (“False Light Claim”)).

As you know, Rule 11 imposes a duty upon counsel to ensure any pleading or motion presented to the Court is not “frivolous, legally unreasonable, or factually without foundation,” and “is not being presented for any improper purposes, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation.” *Gong v. Sarnoff*, 2023 WL 5372473, \*7–8 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 22, 2023) (Liman, J.) (citations omitted); *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b). A violation of this duty may subject both the party and the filing attorney to sanctions. *See id.* at \*7; Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c)(1), (5). For the reasons discussed herein,

April 23, 2025

Page 2

Sarowitz’s Extortion, Interference, Implied Covenant, Defamation, and False Light Claims are “so destined to fail based on the facts and existing precedent” that no reasonable attorney could believe they were well-grounded. *O’Malley v. N.Y. City Transit Auth.*, 896 F.2d 704, 706 (2d Cir. 1990); *Goldman v. Barrett*, 825 Fed. App’x. 35, 37 (2d Cir. 2020). Indeed, as described herein, Sarowitz’s claims are so baseless that the “only plausible conclusion to be drawn” is that you brought them for the “improper purpose” of harass[ing]” Ms. Lively, causing “unnecessary delay,” and “needlessly increas[ing] the cost of litigation,” all of which is prohibited by Rule 11(b)(1). *See China AI Cap. Ltd. on behalf of Link Motion Inc. v. DLA Piper LLP (US)*, 2024 WL 964596, at \*5, \*13 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 6, 2024) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b)(1)). If you do not withdraw the aforementioned claims within Rule 11(c)(1)(A)’s 21-day safe harbor period, ***we will seek sanctions against you, your law firms, and your client.*** Any such sanctions would be in addition to and independent of any costs, attorney’s fees, or damages that Ms. Lively is otherwise entitled to under applicable law.

**I. Sarowitz’s Extortion, Interference, Implied Covenant, Defamation, and False Light Claims against Ms. Lively are Frivolous.**

**A. Sarowitz’s Extortion Claim is Legally Unreasonable and Factually Baseless.**

Sarowitz cannot support an Extortion Claim against Ms. Lively because he makes no factual allegations that Ms. Lively threatened or demanded anything from him, nor can he.

Sarowitz’s Extortion Claim, and related request for punitive and exemplary damages, asserts that Ms. Lively “made threats to the Wayfarer Parties” that “included demands that money, property, services, or other sources of value be conferred upon [Ms. Lively] without consideration or contractual entitlement thereto.” FAC ¶¶ 317-18; ECF No. 162 (“Sarowitz Opp.”) at 33 (quoting *Khadavi v. Stalgi, Inc.*, 2021 WL 929099, at \*6 (C.D. Cal. 2021) (conceding claim requires establishing “the obtaining of property or other consideration from another, with his or her consent, . . . induced by a wrongful use of force or fear[.]”). In support of this claim, Sarowitz identifies two acts, neither of which has anything to do with him. In his Opposition, Sarowitz claims that Ms. Lively supposedly “demanded that the Wayfarer Parties issue a humiliating and false statement taking blame for Lively’s press woes.” Sarowitz Opp. at 32 (citing FAC ¶¶ 16, 250-56). Specifically, the FAC alleges that: “The executive communicated the demand from Lively and Reynolds that **Wayfarer, Heath and Baldoni** make a public apology **that day** and that, if they failed to do so, the ‘gloves would come off.’” FAC ¶ 250 (emphasis added). The FAC goes on to suggest Mr. Reynolds and Ms. Lively “demanded that **Wayfarer** put out a statement ‘accepting blame’ for the problems during filming, with an express threat that they themselves would attack Wayfarer in the press if Wayfarer refused.” *Id.* ¶¶ 253-54 (emphasis added). In other words, the only threats or demands at issue were allegedly made to Baldoni, Wayfarer, and Heath. FAC ¶¶ 250, 253-54. The same is true with respect to the second purported extortionate act identified by Sarowitz: that Ms. Lively purportedly demanded that Baldoni, Heath, and Wayfarer submit letters to the PGA in support of her certification for the *p.g.a.* mark, which Baldoni and Heath ultimately did. Sarowitz Opp. at 32-33 (citing FAC ¶¶ 152-58; *see also* FAC Ex. A at 92).

Despite making these allegations on behalf of the “Wayfarer Parties,” the FAC itself confirms that no “demands,” “threats,” or “coercive” behavior were directed toward Sarowitz at all. *See* FAC at ¶¶ 16, 152-58, 250-56 (identifying purported threats made to Baldoni, Heath, and Wayfarer). The only

April 23, 2025

Page 3

factual allegation set forth in the FAC is that Sarowitz is “an individual residing the County of Lake, Illinois.” FAC ¶ 306. Nowhere in the FAC are there any allegations regarding Sarowitz’s relationship to Baldoni, Heath, or Wayfarer, and, even it did, no such relationship could provide a basis for Sarowitz’s Extortion Claim grounded on alleged demands or threats directed toward third parties. *See EVIP Canada, Inc. v. Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP*, 2021 WL 964943, at \*19 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 15, 2021) (Liman, J.), *aff’d*, 2022 WL 3904541 (2d Cir. Aug. 31, 2022) (“Plaintiffs cannot seek damages on behalf of related [] entities. A corporation does not have standing to assert claims belonging to a related corporation, simply because their business is intertwined.”) (cleaned up); *Sherman v. British Leyland Motors, Ltd.*, 601 F.2d 429, 439 (9th Cir. 1979) (president and sole shareholder of California corporation lacked standing to pursue claims for injuries to corporation); *see also Proskauer Rose, LLP v. Blix Street Records, Inc.*, 384 F. App’x 622, 624 (9th Cir. 2010) (affirming dismissal of sole shareholder for lack of standing “to complain of injury to the corporation”). Under the FAC’s allegations, the alleged civil extortion ***has nothing to do with Sarowitz***, nor could any amendment cure this deficiency to state the Extortion Claim against Ms. Lively in good faith.

Utterly lacking any basis in fact or law, Sarowitz’s Extortion Claim is unwarranted, frivolous, and sanctionable under Rule 11. *See Watkins v. Smith*, 2013 WL 655085, at \*4 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 22, 2013), *aff’d*, 561 F. App’x 46 (2d Cir. 2014) (granting sanctions against plaintiff’s counsel or decision to defendants “who had no involvement in the underlying events that gave rise to the plaintiff’s suit”); *Katzman v. Victoria’s Secret Catalogue*, 167 F.R.D. 649, 660 (S.D.N.Y. 1996), *aff’d sub nom.* 13 F.3d 1229 (2d Cir. 1997) (“As even a cursory examination of the requirements for bringing suit ... would have revealed the impossibility of the claim’s success”); *Charles Equip. Energy Sys., LLC v. INNIO Waukesha Gas Engines, Inc.*, 2023 WL 2346337, at \*5-8 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 3, 2023) (sanctions appropriate where plaintiff “failed to identify a single statement or action by the Defendants on which Plaintiff could have reasonably relied” for claim).

**B. Sarowitz’s Interference and Implied Covenant Claims are Legally Unreasonable and Factually Baseless.**

Sarowitz’s Interference and Implied Covenant Claims are equally untenable because Sarowitz pleads no facts to suggest Ms. Lively interfered with any of his contracts or business relationships. Sarowitz brings three Interference Claims against Ms. Lively: (i) Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations (FAC ¶¶ 347-55); (ii) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (*id.* ¶¶ 356-65); and (iii) Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (*id.* ¶¶ 366-74), seeking punitive and exemplary damages against Ms. Lively in connection with the intentional torts. These claims rest exclusively on purported contractual or economic relationships ***between Wayfarer and WME*** and ***between Baldoni and WME***. *See id.* ¶¶ 348, 357, 367; Sarowitz Opp. at 27 (“The FAC pleads a claim against Lively for tortious interference with Wayfarer’s and Baldoni’s relationships with WME”); *see also* FAC ¶¶ 16, 162, 349-50, 357. Similarly, Sarowitz advances a Breach of Implied Covenant Claim against Ms. Lively, which purportedly arises from an actor agreement between Ms. Lively and Wayfarer, pursuant to which Ms. Lively would take the lead role as Lily Bloom. *See* Sarowitz Opp. at 41; *see also* FAC ¶ 27.

The FAC’s allegations that Ms. Lively interfered with ***Wayfarer’s and Baldoni’s*** contractual or economic relationships with WME do not, and cannot, provide any reasonable basis for Sarowitz to

April 23, 2025

Page 4

assert Interference Claims against anyone. *See* Sarowitz Opp. at 38 (acknowledging interference claims require establishing the “existence of a valid contract between the plaintiff and a third party”). Sarowitz cannot contrive a non-existent relationship between himself and WME, even if he alleged (which he has not) a relationship between him and Wayfarer. *See Citicorp Int’l Trading Co. v. W. Oil & Ref. Co.*, 1991 WL 4502, at \*5 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 16, 1991) (“[B]oth the law of this Circuit and that of California is that a shareholder lacks standing to sue on the basis of an injury to his corporation. A shareholder—even the sole shareholder—does not have standing to assert claims alleging wrongs to the corporation nor can the president and principal shareholder of a corporation claim the damages to a corporation as his own.”); *see also Sovereign Asset Mgmt., Inc. v. Health Net Life Ins. Co.*, 2019 WL 4640397, at \*4 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2019) (dismissing interference claim when party “[wa]s a legal stranger to the contract and business relations that were allegedly interfered with”). Nor is there any indication that Sarowitz has or conceived of any disrupted contractual or economic relationship other than the Baldoni-Wayfarer-WME relationship—much less that Ms. Lively could have known of such relationship. The same is true with respect to the Implied Covenant Claim, which Sarowitz’s Opposition makes clear focuses on a contractual relationship between Ms. Lively and Wayfarer to which Sarowitz was not a party. Sarowitz Opp. at 41

As to Sarowitz’s claim for Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations, “[o]ne can hardly imagine a more frivolous claim than that of breach of a contract between parties who never met, much less negotiated to the point of mutual assent. No reasonably competent attorney could have believed that the facts available ... made out a contract claim by plaintiffs ...” *Nassau-Suffolk Ice Cream, Inc. v. Integrated Res., Inc.*, 114 F.R.D. 684, 691 (S.D.N.Y. 1987); *see also McGough v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 2012 WL 6019108, at \*5-6 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 3, 2012) (attorney violated Rule 11 where, among other things, contract-based claims were asserted against the wrong parties). The same holds true for his remaining Interference Claims. *See Polo Fashions, Inc. v. Fashion Assocs., Inc.*, 1986 WL 1176 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 22, 1986) (awarding sanctions for frivolous suit not properly alleging tortious interference with economic advantage). Sarowitz’s Interference and Implied Covenant Claims against Ms. Lively are objectively baseless. *Katzman v. Victoria’s Secret Catalogue*, 167 F.R.D. at 660; *Charles Equip. Energy Sys., LLC*, 2023 WL 2346337, at \*5-8.

**C. Sarowitz’s Defamation and False Light Claims are Legally Unreasonable and Factually Baseless.**

Sarowitz has alleged no false statements made by Ms. Lively concerning Sarowitz, without which his defamation claim is frivolous. “To state a defamation claim, the statement on ‘which the claim is based must specifically refer to, or be ‘of and concerning,’ the plaintiff in some way.’” *Mahoney v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, 2025 WL 563459, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 20, 2025) (quoting *Blatty v. N.Y. Times Co.*, 42 Cal. 3d 1033, 1042 (1986)). Nowhere in the 391-paragraph FAC does Sarowitz identify a single statement, or the substance of a single statement, made by Ms. Lively concerning Sarowitz.

In his Opposition, Sarowitz identifies three “publications” that he seeks to hold Ms. Lively liable for defamation, none of which involve Sarowitz: (i) Mr. Reynolds’ supposed comment to WME that Baldoni is a “sexual predator”; (ii) the Sloane Parties’ alleged statements that Baldoni “sexually assaulted” Ms. Lively; and (iii) unidentified statements to third parties in response to “media inquiries,” including the *New York Times* and other outlets, “to the effect that the Wayfarer Parties engaged in,

April 23, 2025

Page 5

permitted, and/or failed to prevent sexually inappropriate conduct toward Lively and others and retaliated against Lively[.]” Sarowitz Opp. at 7, 16-18 (citing FAC ¶¶ 8, 162, 189-90, 193, 273-74, 276, 282, 325).

It is both undeniable and conceded that the first two categories—statements to WME or other third parties describing Baldoni as a “sexual predator” and statements concerning Baldoni’s sexual assault of Ms. Lively—relate to Baldoni as an individual, and in no way concern Sarowitz. *See* FAC ¶¶ 8; 162; Sarowitz Opp. at 16-17. A defamation claim brought by Sarowitz on this basis would be frivolous. As to the third category, the allegations as to statements that the “Wayfarer Parties engaged in, permitted, and/or failed to prevent sexually inappropriate conduct toward Lively” have no connection to Sarowitz. *See* FAC ¶¶ 327, 325. Sarowitz has further failed to identify in any way, let alone allege with specificity, **any** actual statements Ms. Lively allegedly made about him on this topic (or any other) to the *New York Times* or other unspecified third parties. To assert this claim, Sarowitz must have a good faith basis to believe that Ms. Lively made **false statements** to the *New York Times* or other news outlets that Sarowitz propagated a misleading narrative about Ms. Lively. With no third parties beyond the *New York Times* even identified, it is clear that Sarowitz lacks a good-faith basis for such allegations. *See Rashdan v. Geissberger*, 2011 WL 197957, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2011) (“It is axiomatic that a plaintiff cannot predicate a defamation claim on what may have been said as opposed to what was actually said.”); *see also Goldman*, 825 F. App’x at 35 (“speculation that conversations may have taken place ... provides no support for allegations as to the content of those conversations.”) (cleaned up). Nor has Sarowitz identified any actual (or even theoretical) statements made by Ms. Lively to the *New York Times*. And, as to the *New York Times* article itself (for which Ms. Lively would not be liable), the Court has indicated such a “strong showing” that the defamation claim against them will be dismissed that discovery is presently stayed against them. ECF No. 118 at 2. Regardless, the *New York Times* article only mentions Sarowitz twice. First, it lists him as a defendant in the lawsuit brought by Ms. Lively, which cannot be construed as false or credited to Mr. Reynolds. ECF No. 107-1 at 4. Second, it states that Wayfarer was “bankrolled by the billionaire Steve Sarowitz, who is co-chair of the studio with Mr. Baldoni.” *Id.* at 5. This statement is all but admitted by Sarowitz himself. *See* ECF No. 151 ¶ 60; *see also* ECF No. 107-1.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, and most fatal of all, any statements that Ms. Lively made to anyone about sexual harassment or retaliation are privileged under a combination of the litigation, fair report and sexual harassment privilege under California Civil Code Section 47.1. Sarowitz makes zero allegations as to any actual malice by Ms. Lively to him, nor could he.

## **II. Sarowitz’s Frivolous Claims Were Brought For the Improper Purpose of Harassing Ms. Lively, Causing Delay, and Increasing the Cost of Litigation.**

From its inception, this matter has been plagued by retaliatory conduct. In the case of Mr. Freedman, you have been aware of, involved in, and/or have facilitated this course of conduct since your engagement no later than August 13, 2024 and have confirmed that Sarowitz is “prepared to spend

---

<sup>1</sup> For these same reasons, Sarowitz’s False Light Claim is also baseless. Sarowitz has not identified a single false statements or distortion of a factual statement **made by Ms. Lively** that placed Sarowitz before the public in a false light. *See* Sarowitz Opp. at 18-19; FAC ¶¶ 162, 274-82.



April 23, 2025

Page 6

whatever necessary to defend Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios and himself.”<sup>2</sup> In the case of Mr. Schuster, you have been aware of, involved in, and/or have facilitated this course of conduct, including in the filing of the Amended Complaint and its baseless claims, as well as the public relations strategy surrounding the litigation, since no later than your appearance on the docket on January 22, 2025. ECF No. 22.

Further, as to Mr. Freedman, as counsel for Sarowitz and the other Wayfarer Parties, you have orchestrated “flood the zone” tactics designed to confuse and mislead the public regarding the nature of this litigation, *as well as made statements taking aim at Ms. Lively*, including by asserting:

- “Lively’s recent motion to dismiss herself from the self-concocted disaster she initiated is one of the most abhorrent examples of abusing our legal system. Stringent rules are put into place to protect the innocent and allow individuals to rightfully defend themselves. Laws are not meant to be twisted and curated by privileged elites to fit their own personal agenda. As we said yesterday in response to Mr. Reynolds’s same cowardly measures, we will continue to hold Ms. Lively accountable for her actions of pure malice which include falsely accusing my clients of harassment and retaliation. Ms. Lively’s fantastical claims will be swiftly debunked as discovery moves forward, easily disproved with actual, evidentiary proof.”<sup>3</sup>
- “It is shameful that Ms. Lively and her representatives would make such serious and categorically false accusations against Mr. Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios and its representatives, as yet another desperate attempt to ‘fix’ her negative reputation which was garnered from her own remarks and actions during the campaign for the film[.]”<sup>4</sup>
- “It is painfully ironic that Blake Lively is accusing Justin Baldoni of weaponizing the media when her own team orchestrated this vicious attack by sending The New York Times grossly edited documents prior to even filing the complaint. We are releasing all of the evidence which will show a pattern of bullying and threats to take over the movie. None of this will come as a surprise because consistent with her past behavior Blake Lively used other people to communicate those threats and bully her way to get whatever she wanted. We have all the receipts and more.”<sup>5</sup>
- “The irony is not lost on anyone that Ms. Lively is so petrified of the truth that she has moved to gag it. The immense power that she wielded in Hollywood built on pure fear

---

<sup>2</sup> Monica Hunter-Hart, *Meet the Little-Known Billionaire Caught Up in the Baldoni-Lively Scandal*, Forbes (Jan. 7, 2025), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/monicahunterhart/2025/01/07/meet-the-little-known-blake-lively-steve-sarowitz-billionaire-caught-up-in-the-baldoni-livelyscandal/>

<sup>3</sup> *Justin Baldoni’s Lawyer Fires Back at Blake Lively’s Motion to Dismiss*, TMZ (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.tzm.com/2025/03/20/justin-baldoni-lawyer-fires-back-blake-lively-motion-to-dismiss/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Statement to the New York Times from Bryan Freedman, attorney for Justin Baldoni, Wayfarer Studios and all its representatives*, The New York Times (Dec. 21, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/12/21/us/statement-to-the-new-york-times.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Jen Juneau & Elizabeth Rosner, *Justin Baldoni’s Lawyer Vows to Release ‘Evidence’ of Blake Lively’s ‘Pattern of Bullying’: ‘We Have the Receipts’*, People (Jan. 7, 2025), [https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/justin-baldonis-lawyer-vows-release-173959183.html?fr=sycsrp\\_catchall&guccounter=1](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/justin-baldonis-lawyer-vows-release-173959183.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall&guccounter=1).

April 23, 2025

Page 7

for her husband and their powerful friends came to an end the moment Ms. Lively planned a mass distribution of a disturbingly false and well calculated hit piece in the New York Times. Ms. Lively did this with the sole intent to ruin the lives of innocent individuals, and then went the extra mile to place blame on a fictitious smear campaign, all because she quite simply could not accept that the public had organically seen through her facade. When you accuse innocent individuals of something so disturbing as sexual harassment without thinking of the destruction it would cause to not only them, but the entire domestic violence community, this is where accountability for such mean spirited actions must be taken.”<sup>6</sup>

- “Blake isn’t just hurting Baldoni by accusing him of sexual harassment when he never did anything wrong ... she’s also devastating the entirety of the domestic violence community by lodging the allegations.”<sup>7</sup>

The “only plausible conclusion to be drawn” from all of this conduct is that you are acting with the improper purpose of “harass[ing]” Ms. Lively, “causing delay,” and “needlessly increas[ing] the cost of litigation” in direct violation of Rule 11(b)(1). *DLA Piper LLP (US)*, 2024 WL 964596, at \*5 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b)(1)).<sup>8</sup> Such conduct is willfully improper and warrants sanctions under Rule 11(b)(1). *See Gong*, 2023 WL 5372473, at \*13 (“[A] court may infer an improper purpose if, in light of Plaintiff’s conduct during and outside of litigation, a complaint is baseless as to suggest that there is an ulterior motive behind the lawsuit.”); *S. Pac. Shipping Co. v. Redi-Fresh Produce Inc.*, 2014 WL 6968039, at \*10 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 9, 2014) (holding that “[t]he deficiency of [plaintiff’s] claim, coupled with its behavior” in litigation “gives rise to an inference of improper purpose”); *Galonsky v. Williams*, 1997 WL 759445, at \*6 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 10, 1997) (“[T]he overall circumstances of this case indicate that [counsel] filed these baseless claims as part of a public relations campaign to embarrass the defendants and thereby coerce a settlement.”).

\*\*\*

We intend to seek monetary sanctions against you, your law firms, and Sarowitz for the costs and attorneys’ fees incurred in responding to these frivolous claims, in preparing these Rule 11 materials, and in any other expenses and interest directly resulting from these violations. *See Goldman v. Barrett*, 2019 WL 4572725, at \*4 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2019) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c)(4)); Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c); *In re Australia & New Zealand Banking Grp. Ltd. Sec. Litig.*, 712 F. Supp. 2d 255, 271 (S.D.N.Y. 2010). Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), by service of this letter and the accompanying motion, you have 21

<sup>6</sup> Justin Baldoni’s lawyer says he won’t be ‘bullied’ into silence by ‘petrified’ Blake Lively, Ryan Reynolds after gag order request, Page Six (Jan. 25, 2025), <https://pagesix.com/2025/01/25/celebrity-news/justin-baldonis-lawyer-says-he-wont-be-bullied-into-silence-by-petrified-blake-lively-ryan-reynolds-after-gag-order-request/>.

<sup>7</sup> Justin Baldoni’s Lawyer: Blake’s A Scared Bully, And She Won’t Silence Us . . . We Want The Truth Public!!!, TMZ (Jan. 25, 2025), <https://www.t TMZ.com/2025/01/25/justin-baldoni-not-bullied-into-silence-blakelively-lawyer-says/#continued>.

<sup>8</sup> We are concerned that you are doing so in an attempt to bolster your own career and reputation at Ms. Lively’ expense. Debusmann Jr., Bernd, *Who is Bryan Freedman, the lawyer said to represent Don Lemon and Tucker Carlson?*, BBC (Apr. 27, 2023) (“What I realized is that if I wanted to be an entertainment lawyer, I had to sue entertainers. No one would hire you until you built a reputation. . . . So I started to focus on going after entertainers, and defeating established entertainment litigators . . . in things that were high profile so that someone would write something about it.”).



April 23, 2025

Page 8

days to withdraw the aforementioned claims against Ms. Lively. Should you not withdraw those claims within 21 days, we will file the attached motion for sanctions, along with an affidavit and a memorandum of law.

Respectfully,

/s/ Esra A. Hudson

**MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP**

Esra A. Hudson (admitted *pro hac vice*)

2049 Century Park East, Suite 1700

Los Angeles, California 90067

(310) 312-4000

ehudson@manatt.com

/s/ Michael J. Gottlieb

**WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP**

Michael J. Gottlieb

1875 K Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 303-1000

mgottlieb@willkie.com

cc: Meryl Goverski, Willkie, Farr & Gallagher, LLP  
Kristin Bender, Willkie, Farr & Gallagher, LLP  
Aaron Nathan, Willkie, Farr & Gallagher, LLP  
Stephanie Roeser, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP  
Matthew F. Bruno, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Enclosure.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

BLAKE LIVELY,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. 24-cv-10049 (LJL) (lead case)

WAYFARER STUDIOS LLC, et al.,

Defendants.

WAYFARER STUDIOS LLC, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

No. 25-cv-449 (LJL) (member case)

BLAKE LIVELY, et al.,

Defendants.

**NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATED DEFENDANT LIVELY’S MOTION FOR RULE 11  
SANCTIONS AGAINST PLAINTIFF STEVE SAROWITZ AND HIS COUNSEL**

Consolidated Defendant Blake Lively hereby moves pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 (“Rule 11”) for sanctions against Consolidated Plaintiff Steve Sarowitz, Bryan Freedman, Mitchell Schuster, Liner Freedman Taitelman + Cooley, and Meister Seelig & Fein PLLC. Ms. Lively respectfully submits that the Court should impose monetary sanctions against Sarowitz and his counsel as a consequence of their filing the following seven causes of action against Ms. Lively: (1) Civil Extortion (First Cause of Action); (2) Defamation (Second Cause of Action); (3) False Light Invasion of Privacy (Third Cause of Action); (4) Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing (Fourth Cause of Action); (5) Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations (Fifth Cause of Action); (6) Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage (Sixth Cause of Action); and (7) Negligent Interference with Prospective

Economic Advantage (Seventh Cause of Action). Each of these causes of action are unwarranted by existing law, and lack any factual contentions of evidentiary support, in violation of Rule 11(b)(2) and (b)(3). Instead, these causes of action have been brought for the “improper purpose” of “harass[ing]” Ms. Lively, “caus[ing] unnecessary delay,” and “needlessly increase[ing] the cost of litigation,” in violation of Rule 11(b)(1).

For these reasons, and those set forth in more detail in the accompanying memorandum of law, the Court should impose monetary sanctions on Sarowitz and his counsel to deter this kind of egregious willful misconduct in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 15, 2025

/s/ Esra A. Hudson

WILLKIE FARR & GALLAGHER LLP  
Michael J. Gottlieb  
Kristin E. Bender  
Meryl Governski (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
1875 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 303-1000  
mgottlieb@willkie.com  
kbender@willkie.com  
mgovernski@willkie.com

Aaron Nathan  
787 7th Avenue  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 728-8000  
anathan@willkie.com

MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP  
Esra A. Hudson (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
Stephanie A. Roeser (admitted *pro hac vice*)  
2049 Century Park East, Suite 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
(310) 312-4000  
ehudson@manatt.com  
sroeser@manatt.com

Matthew F. Bruno  
7 Times Sq.  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 790-4500  
mbruno@manatt.com

*Attorneys for Blake Lively*